



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/790,694	03/03/2004	Madan Mohan	34874-283	4326
64280	7590	07/25/2007	EXAMINER	
MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY & POPEO, P.C. 9255 TOWNE CENTER DRIVE SUITE 600 SAN DIEGO, CA 92121			VIDWAN, JASJIT S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2182	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/25/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/790,694	MOHAN ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Jasjit S. Vidwan	2182

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed 5/10/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues:

- (a) "Connecting to the principle computing platform after the creation of the availability query"
  - (b) Prior art fails to teach, "...that an availability check can be run locally or that mobile computing devices can include replicated and synchronized database"
2. With respect to argument (a), **Examiner disagrees**. Applicant argues that in present invention the Query is formulated while the computing device is "offline" and then connected to the principle-computing platform to view the availability of an item. However, as currently claimed the limitation, "connecting to the principle computing platform after the creation of the availability query" can not be construed as "connecting to the principle computing platform after the creation of the availability query was created while offline." In essence, the availability query could still have been created while online as long as it was prior to accessing the backend database to request the item availability, which is clearly taught by prior art as cited in the rejection below.
3. With respect to argument (b), **Examiner disagrees**. Applicant argues that AAPA fails to teach having a replica database of the backend database that can be accessed by the mobile station. However, it should be noted that AAPA as modified by Manno of analogous art teaches having multiple copies of the mainframe database [**see Manno, Fig. 1, element 40 – which is identical to AAPA's 'backend database'**] with that of local copied database [**see Manno, Fig. 1, element 30 – also see Manno, Paragraph 0042**] that can be accessed when not connected to the mainframe database (i.e. while offline).
4. In light of above response to arguments, Examiner submits that prior art of record still reads on the amended claims and thus the action is made FINAL.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
2. Claims 1-31 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior art ("Background") [herein after AAPA] and further in view of Manno et al, U.S. Pub No: 2004/0181454 [herein after Manno].
3. As per claims 1, 5 and 9, AAPA teaches a method of performing an availability check [see Paragraph 003 – “Availability of goods, known in the industry as “Available-to-Promise” or ATP or an availability check”] on a mobile device [Paragraph 004, “whereby a sales person performs an online check from her computer or personal digital assistant (“PDA”)], comprising:

Mobile device comprising a microprocessor and memory [“PDA” / “Laptop” – it is inherent that both PDA and laptop will have a microprocessor and memory]  
Receiving an item number [Paragraph 003, “requested product”] and requested quantity of the item number [paragraph 003, “quantity requested”] on an auxiliary computing platform of the mobile device [“Paragraph 004” – on the laptop or the PDA], the auxiliary computing platform [laptop or PDA] disconnected from a principal computing platform [see Paragraph 002 and 004 – AAPA teaches a system wherein the salesman using the ‘auxiliary computer platform’ could be in Cairo, Egypt while the central server could be located in Chicago, Illinois];  
Creating an availability query with parameters comprising the item number and the quantity [see paragraph 005, “...ATP checks are typically performed online from the sales

person's computer to check the availability of product. For example, a sales person may place a laptop computer online at a customer's site and perform an ATP check by having the laptop query the remotely located back office], the availability query seeking the availability of the item number at the requested quantity from data records in a backend database without modifying the data records [see Paragraph 003, "An availability check is generally an online check to ensure that a company can provide the requested product at the requested time in the quantity requested by the customer." – the salesman is simply checking whether a particular item is available for sale or not at the requested quantity. Since there is no sale being performed during the availability check, no databases are updated of quantity of sale at anytime]

Connecting to the principal computing platform [Paragraph 004 – using PDA to connect to a back office system to determine the availability of goods"] after the creation of the availability query [*It is obvious that the principle computing platform will only be accessed after the said query has been connected. It should be noted "connecting to the principle computing platform after the creation of the availability query has been created" does not constitute creating the said query while the user was 'offline'*] and sending the availability query to the principle-computing platform [Paragraph 005, "...having laptop query the remotely located back office system"];

AAPA teaches the above limitations and though it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that since a salesman is performing the availability check online via a mobile station such as laptop or PDA, it would obviously receive results back from the "back office system" regarding the availability, the above assumption is not disclosed verbatim by AAPA. However, Manno, in an analogous art, teaches a system wherein a user (sales person, Manager/Owner) using a mobile station [see Manno, Fig. 4, elements 56 and 58] can query and receive product availability [see Paragraph 0019] from either of plurality of inventory off-site locations [Fig. 4, elements 12 – also see Col. 51].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to combine the teachings of AAPA with that of Manno in order to provide a proper information flow for industries that require constant communication between sales staff, management, installers and customers [see Manno, paragraphs 0011-0012]. It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention would have been motivated to combine the two teachings in order to take advantage of having proper information flow for industries that require constant communication between sales staff, management, installers and customers [see Manno, paragraphs 0011-0012]

5. **As per Claim 3, 17 and 21,** AAPA as modified by Manno above teaches a method of performing an availability check on a mobile device, comprising:

(a) Synchronizing one or more data items in a backend database [see AAPA, Paragraph 0004, "Backend office" – or in case of Manno, see Fig. 1, element 40, "Mainframe"] with one or more data items in a replica database located at the mobile device [see Manno, Paragraph 0042, "Local database resident at the store location..."]

(b) Remaining limitations were addressed above in rejection of Claims 1, 5 & 9.

6. **As per claims 2, 6, 10, 14, 18 and 22,** AAPA as modified by Manno above teaches method further including displaying the query result to a user [see Manno, paragraph 0056]

6. **As per claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 19 and 23,** AAPA as modified by Manno above teaches method wherein the availability query is selected from at least one of a product availability check, a product allocation check, and a forecast check [see AAPA, paragraph 0004 – the back office system may be warehouse system that maintains an inventory of goods (product availability check) or may be a production planning system that maintains projections of future goods and their allocations (forecast check)]

7. **As per claims 4, 8, 12, 16, 20 and 24,** AAPA as modified by Manno above teaches a method wherein the query result indicates at least one of a full, partial, or unavailable availability of the requested quantity [see Manno, paragraph 0056 – "...100 units in stock at the store #103, 2 units at the store #102 and none in stock at the store #77 location."].

8. **As per Claims 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30,** AAPA as modified by Manno above teaches a system wherein the displayed result is other than a quantity number [see Manno, paragraph 0051].
9. **As per Claims 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36,** AAPA as modified by Manno above teaches a method wherein the mobile device receives the item number and quantity from a user not in the physical presence of the item [see AAPA, paragraph 0002, sales person can be in Cairo, Egypt while the central server could be located in Chicago, Illinois].

#### ***Conclusion***

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jasjit S. Vidwan whose telephone number is (571) 272-7936. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am - 5 pm.

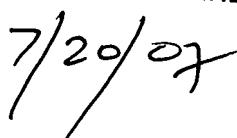
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, KIM HUYNH can be reached on (571) 272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JSV  
7/12/07



KIM HUYNH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER



7/20/07